

PUBLIC DOCUMENT.....

.....No. 24.

---

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

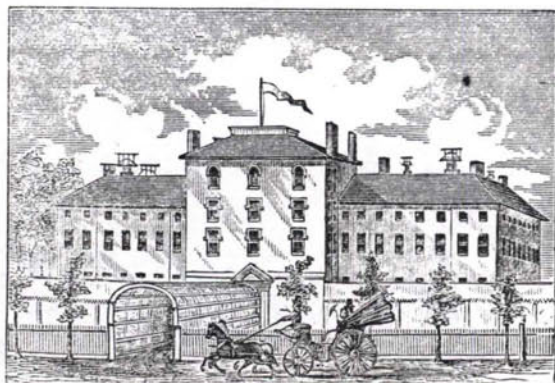
INSPECTORS

OF THE

STATE ALMSHOUSE

AT

BRIDGEWATER.



---

OCTOBER, 1870.

---

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER, STATE PRINTERS,

79 MILK STREET (CORNER OF FEDERAL).

1871.

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

---

## INSPECTORS' REPORT.

---

*To His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts, and the Honorable Council.*

Complying with a law of this Commonwealth, we, the Inspectors of the State Almshouse and State Workhouse at Bridgewater, present this the Seventeenth Annual Report of the Almshouse, and Fourth of the Workhouse department.

The number of persons committed to the Workhouse this year has not increased, and the number now here is comparatively small.

The number of inmates in the Almshouse is also small, while the number of children (except such as are born here), is very small.

In our report last year, we alluded to the law sentencing inmates of the almshouses, etc., to the Workhouse, as having a tendency to reduce the number of inmates without injury to the worthy poor.

Experience has taught us during the past year to take a somewhat different view of the subject, and we are not fully convinced that the fear of being sentenced to the Workhouse does not deter some of the worthy poor from entering the almshouses.

Whether any alteration in the laws sentencing paupers to the Workhouse may not be so made as to obviate any of the objections herein alluded to, we leave with those in authority to consider.



As has been stated in previous reports, the land comprising the farm connected with this institution, when purchased, although healthy and pleasant in location and surroundings, was mostly worn out and impoverished. It has required much time and labor to enrich the soil and make the land fruitful. This has been done to a great extent.

Our Superintendent, with his vigilant care and foresight, has had a constant eye to progress and improvement, and although he may have been so very "careful about many things," as to impair his own health and strength, yet he has caused many portions of the farm to "blossom like the rose."

He has caused the bogs and meadows to be drained; stumps and stones to be removed, and where but a comparatively short time since were unsightly swamps and bogs are now fields in a high state of cultivation.

The orchards are just now coming into bearing, and in a few years, will not only be a credit to the forethought of the Superintendent, but may be a source of profit to the Commonwealth.

The stock on the farm has not materially changed in number, but great care has been taken to improve the quality.

About one hundred tons of hay in good condition have been cut and stored in the barns during the past summer.

It is impossible at this time to say how large the quantity of vegetables will be, they not yet having been gathered. But it is safe to say, that in consequence of the unprecedented drought during the past season, the amount will be very sensibly decreased from what we had a right to anticipate in the spring.

All the buildings of the institution are in excellent condition, having been painted, and many of the floors in the house relaid, since our last report.

An addition has been made to the library, which though not large, ~~has~~ is a good selection of books, suitable for such of the inmates as are sufficiently educated to appreciate them.

In accordance with the law an inventory of the stock, implements, provisions, farm productions, together with an appraisal of the real and personal estate has been made and will be found in the Superintendent's report.

The hospitals are under the immediate care of Dr. Edward Sawyer, the attending physician, a person fully competent to

meet the requirements of his position, and whose report will be found hereto annexed.

The religious services, as heretofore, are continued by the Rev. Ebenezer Gay, who seems to have labored faithfully in the discharge of a rather discouraging duty, whose report, giving the requisite information, is also annexed.

It is unnecessary for the Inspectors to give more than a general statement of facts, as the Superintendent gives a detailed report, which constitutes a part of this.

After the long number of years our Superintendent has been before the public in this and other prominent positions, it would be idle for us to undertake to say anything laudatory of him, but we cannot permit this opportunity to pass without expressing our unbounded satisfaction with the chief matron of the institution, Mrs. Goodspeed, whose conduct has at all times commanded the universal confidence and respect of all with whom she has, in the course of her arduous duties, come in contact.

JAMES H. MITCHELL,  
JOSEPH B. THAXTER,  
JOHN B. HATHAWAY,  
*Inspectors.*

BRIDGEWATER, September 30, 1870.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

*To the Inspectors of the State Pauper Establishment and State Workhouse at Bridgewater.*

GENTLEMEN :—I herewith submit a summary of the affairs of the institution for the year now closed.

### SUMMARY OF INMATES.

Number of paupers in the house October 1, 1869, . . . . .	81
of paupers admitted, . . . . .	266
born in the house, . . . . .	21
in the house during the year, . . . . .	368
died, . . . . .	46
discharged, . . . . .	249
remaining October 1, 1870, . . . . .	73
of men, 28 ; of women, 12 ; of boys, 11 ; of girls, 22.	

### Workhouse Department :

Number of convicts October 1, 1869, . . . . .	283
admitted during the year, . . . . .	218
in the workhouse, . . . . .	501
discharged during the year, . . . . .	207
died during the year, . . . . .	24
eloped during the year, . . . . .	6
remaining October 1, 1870, . . . . .	264
of men, 105 ; of women, 159.	

Number in both departments, . . . . . 337

### EXPENDITURES.

From October 1, 1869, to January 1, 1870, the current expenses were \$12,085.10, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$2,737.86 of the appropriation for 1869, not required for the support of the institution.

## RECEIPTS FOR SAME PERIOD.

From treasurer of Commonwealth, . . . \$12,085 10

From January 1, 1870, to October 1, 1870, the  
expenses were . . . \$23,247 09

## Receipts for same period:

From the treasurer of the Commonwealth the  
sum of . . . \$23,247 09

Leaving in the treasury an unexpended balance  
of the appropriation amounting to . . . \$13,752 91

The total current expenses have been . . . \$35,332 19

The receipts from the treasury have been . . . 35,332 19

from labor of inmates have been . . . 2,663 21

from farm products have been . . . 537 79

The two latter sums (\$3,201) have been paid to the treasurer, agreeably to the requirements of law.

## The items of the current expenses have been as follows, viz.:

Salaries of the Inspectors, . . . . .	\$480 00
Salaries of resident officers, . . . . .	6,509 25
Sundry persons, incidental labor, . . . . .	481 32
Dry goods, bedding and furniture, . . . . .	1,663 73
Tea, coffee, chocolate and shells, . . . . .	670 81
Leather and shoe findings, . . . . .	562 93
Blacksmith and harness work, . . . . .	151 27
Painting and material, . . . . .	1,408 99
Crockery, tin, glass and other ware, . . . . .	235 04
Beef and farm stock, . . . . .	703 50
Lime and cement, . . . . .	31 97
Hay and straw, . . . . .	304 94
Brooms, brushes, baskets, &c., . . . . .	136 00
Soap and material, . . . . .	199 99
Light, . . . . .	258 08
Miscellaneous small goods, . . . . .	228 15



Door findings, . . . . .	\$8 00
Hops, malt, salt and vinegar, . . . . .	185 88
Medicines and hospital supplies, . . . . .	728 99
Newspapers and stationery, . . . . .	73 35
Post-office expenses, . . . . .	33 78
Repairs and findings for sewing-machines, . . . . .	170 36
Repairs and findings for steam-fixtures, . . . . .	88 66
Repairs of roof and chimney, . . . . .	1,016 84
Transportation of merchandise, . . . . .	443 99
Tobacco, snuff and pipes, . . . . .	293 20
Farm tools and seeds, . . . . .	205 41
Trial justice fees, . . . . .	86 00
Medical expenses, . . . . .	60 00
2½ tons feed, . . . . .	105 94
662 " coal, . . . . .	5,473 38
610 barrels of flour, . . . . .	4,280 51
23 " of crackers, . . . . .	112 50
113 " of beef, . . . . .	1,579 45
9 " of apples, . . . . .	43 13
1 " of B. wheat, . . . . .	7 50
2½ " of P. fish, . . . . .	36 48
995 bushels of grain, . . . . .	1,162 89
62½ " of beans, . . . . .	124 59
581 gallons of milk, . . . . .	122 04
1,424 " of molasses, . . . . .	735 40
30,658 pounds of meat, . . . . .	2,545 85
7,965 " of fish, . . . . .	378 59
1,700 " of S. potatoes, . . . . .	44 00
815 " of ham, . . . . .	199 70
2,672 " of sugar, . . . . .	350 98
987 " of rice, . . . . .	49 85
1,299 " of butter, . . . . .	506 49
442 " of cheese, . . . . .	51 59
50 " of dried apples, . . . . .	7 00
Total, . . . . .	\$35,332 19

## ASSETS.

Cash on hand, none.

Bills payable and receivable, none.

The real estate is the same, and may be described as last year. There are two hundred and twenty acres of land, with the buildings thereon, all of which are used for the same purposes as heretofore, and have been appraised at the sum of \$187,212.05.

PERSONAL ESTATE AND ITS VALUE.

Live stock, . . . . .	\$4,357 00
Carriages and agricultural implements, . . . . .	3,710 40
Products of farm, . . . . .	8,621 00
Mechanical and machinery, . . . . .	19,455 45
Beds and bedding, . . . . .	9,001 55
Other furniture and property, . . . . .	5,356 63
Personal property in Superintendent's department, . . . . .	3,931 93
Ready-made clothing, . . . . .	4,090 40
Dry goods, . . . . .	521 46
Provisions and groceries, . . . . .	1,287 69
Fuel, . . . . .	1,937 00
Library and books, . . . . .	667 77
Drugs and medicines, . . . . .	515 72
<hr/>	
Total personal property, . . . . .	\$63,454 00
Total real estate, . . . . .	187,212 05
<hr/>	
Total assets, . . . . .	\$200,666 05

The current expense account includes charges to the amount of \$1,832.20, which from the exigencies of the case had to be met, and as no appropriation was made for extraordinary repairs, the damage inflicted by the gale of September last has been repaired and paid for of necessity from the appropriation for current expenses, the only one available. Upon this basis, the average weekly cost is found to be about two dollars per week. If the cash earned and paid into the treasury, together with the charges on account of extraordinary repairs, be deducted, then the weekly cost would be one dollar and seventy cents.

At the date of last report, there was remaining of an appropriation made in 1869 for laying new floors, replenishing library, additions to chapel, &c., &c., &c., the sum of \$671.42, all of which has been used, as per statement, viz. :—



For floors, . . . . .	\$248 50
library, . . . . .	190 00
chapel fixtures and furniture, . . . . .	232 92
	<hr/>
	\$671 42

Your constant visiting here and frequent inspection of the entire premises, has made you so thoroughly conversant with its whole management, there is little if any need of remarks from me. The experience of the past year has been, for the most part, similar to that of others since the workhouse system was established. The inmates admitted here from year to year are pretty much the same in character, and the cause of their committal pretty much the same; that great source of crime and pauperism—intemperance.

The early part of the season, was, in a remarkable degree, favorable for all farm products, and so continued, long enough to perfect the hay crop, since which there has been so little rain, that the latter part of the season has hardly increased them at all. We have cut and stored, in good order, a large quantity of hay, while the crops of the later harvest are none of them coming beyond half of the promise in the spring, while some are quite nearly an entire failure, though, in the most essential of vegetables, we have enough for table use,—of potatoes an abundant supply. Considering the unfavorable season, the farm products are quite satisfactory, stimulating, as it must, to renewed and more energetic exertions in the future. Besides taking care of land under cultivation, we have not lost sight of the fact, that the farmer's work is never done; and have endeavored to project and carry forward such improvements as will not only increase the productiveness of the soil, but add to the beauty and cheerfulness of the establishment and its surroundings.

In our efforts to accomplish something in this direction, ample scope is given for the employment of all the men able to labor, save those needed in the various departments of the buildings; and if there is not as much done as it would seem there should be, from the large number, as well as the fact of their being *committed*, I can only say that a knowledge of the physical condition of the male convicts here, will satisfy any



one that great results are out of the question. A large portion of them, when brought here are in a filthy, debauched and pitiable condition, reduced by their long course of excesses, to little better than mere wrecks of humanity, not a few of them entirely beyond recovery.

Of the women committed, their condition averages better than the men, and by far the greater proportion of them are able to work, during their stay, which with those who give promise of a better life, is not usually prolonged much beyond the time needed to prepare and condition them for self-support. The same is true of the few men who are fortunate enough to have been arrested early in their career, thereby insuring to them returning health, after which, they too are able, physically, to procure their own support. The liberal manner in which the releasing power is dispensed to the hopeful cases meets my hearty approval, though it deprives the institution of its efficient helpers, thereby cutting off its only means for a favorable exhibit in a financial view, which, however, is of little matter, compared with the reformation of the convict. Hence the wisdom of applying, so freely, the pardoning power, in cases when the object of their confinement appears to have been attained—first, as far as possible, the cure of the diseased; and second, that they may go into the community as *helpers* rather than *depredators*.

If such is the result, the experiment of classification is certainly an economical one, when viewed only with reference to those unfortunates that have transgressed the laws; but looking a step further, into the relief afforded to the blameless poor and the hundreds of our poor youth, with no hindrance to the top-round in the ladder or to an equal chance with others but poverty, and it would hardly seem any one can doubt that a step has been taken in the right direction, nor can we doubt, looking at it in an economical view, that it should receive our support, not only as a measure calculated to protect the community from these invaders, but in its progress purging many of them of their corruptions, and leading them into the path of sobriety and industry, which, for the most part, they had been so unfortunate as not to find, or so unwise as not to follow it.

What must have been the effect of the association, when, as was the case a few years since, the State poor of all classes and characters were cared for in the same buildings!



The worthy, honest poor, with no crime ; the profane, vicious, diseased and lazy ; and, worse than all, orphaned children and the children of poor persons, with no *crime* upon them but from their poverty alone, compelled to find there a home. All this conglomerate mass of unfortunates huddled into one building, could it otherwise be, with such a diversity of classes, that the grading process would hardly stop till nearly all had felt the effects of associating with the hardened and practised corrupter ?

Under the present system, many of the evils heretofore existing, are among the things that were. Convicts in a great measure are separated from the worthy, honest poor, thereby affording an opportunity for the "State Almshouse" to be, what it was intended, and what all desire it should be,—a quiet and comfortable home for those who, by no fault of their own, are reduced to the extremity of seeking therein an asylum.

If for no other reason than the benefits conferred upon our poor youth, we should plead for the system, for already enough of its good results are known, to command the confidence and enlist the sympathy of very many whose study of our public charities is with a view of improving upon the past. As I have stated in former reports, the care and management of the children was the matter most difficult, yet most important and interesting. How to care for, train and educate these children, and save them from the vicious examples of their adult associates, engaged the careful and serious attention of the law-making power, and resulted in establishing the State Primary School. Probably no one will doubt the wisdom of this step, because all concede there is much for hope and encouragement from well-directed effort in this branch of our charity.

From this school, already, the results are so favorable, there is no room for doubt as to the good work it is doing. The saving these poor youth from becoming vagabonds and hardened criminals, is of such vast importance, that we bespeak for it the support and encouragement of all, proud as they justly are of a Commonwealth so noted for its aid in educating, reforming and elevating the children of misfortune of every nation and tongue found within her borders.

Of the Workhouse, it may be said, that it is well arranged for the proper care of the inmates ; the buildings are sufficiently large, roomy and well ventilated, and its surroundings such as



to conduce to their health. Believing that labor is one of the best and even necessary measures for reformation, habits of industry are inculcated and labor is provided for all able to engage in it.

To such as can read, access is given to the shelves of a large, well-stocked, interesting library, besides a liberal supply of the newspapers of the day and week, nor have we neglected those who are so unfortunate as to find themselves grown to manhood and womanhood without being able to enjoy the high privilege of getting knowledge from books. For such as are inclined, willing hearts have labored in the evening school, not without present success, and we feel justified in saying that the future will no doubt show encouraging returns for these humble endeavors.

The sick who are in the immediate charge of the physician, are placed in large and well appointed wards, so cared for as not only to make all as comfortable as their condition will permit, while to those not beyond medical reach, facilities are afforded for their restoration to health, as will be shown by the report of the able physician in whose charge you have placed the sick, together with the sanitary affairs of the establishment generally; and it is most gratifying to say, so successful have been his efforts, that no epidemic has been here, and with him, you have reason to feel, with this department the year closes very satisfactorily.

As a means of improvement and reformation, now as heretofore, a chaplain is employed, whose services on the Sabbath continue to arrest the attention of the inmates; and if he does not succeed in eradicating the habits of wrong-doing in all, may we not hope that through this instrumentality, some at least are saved, while the purging influences of the gospel will not be entirely lost upon any! For further thought upon this subject, you are referred to the chaplain's report—the Rev. Mr. Gay of Bridgewater. The Rev. Mr. Conlin of Bridgewater, in whom very many of the inmates have entire confidence, continues his ministrations to the sick, who esteem it a great privilege to commune with the pastor of their own choice. To those who find themselves about to relinquish their hold upon life, his services are appreciated to a degree, that no doubt can exist as to its good results.



In looking at the institution in all its details, at the close of the present year, its condition develops enough of progress, at least to justify our confidence in its future success; and that it will amply remunerate the Commonwealth for all moneys expended in giving the helping hand, by which so many of the idle and vicious are cured of their diseases, and brought back to positions of self-support.

Respectfully submitted.

L. L. GOODSPEED.

BRIDGEWATER, September 30, 1870.

## OFFICERS.

	Salary.
J. B. Thaxter, (Inspector,) . . . . .	\$160 00
J. H. Mitchell, (Inspector,) . . . . .	160 00
J. B. Hathaway, (Inspector,) . . . . .	160 00
Edward Sawyer, (Physican,) . . . . .	400 00
J. E. Harlow, (Consulting Physican,) . . . . .	100 00
Rev. E. Gay, (Chaplain,) . . . . .	200 00
L. L. Goodspeed, (Superintendent,) . . . . .	2,000 00
W. C. Howland, (Assistant Superintendent,) . . . . .	500 00
Lucius Wentworth, (Farmer,) . . . . .	500 00
J. C. Coates, (Farmer,) . . . . .	400 00
W. H. Jones, (Farmer,) . . . . .	400 00
Edward Dalton, (Watchman,) . . . . .	400 00
Edward Ellis, (Engineer,) . . . . .	400 00
M. M. Goodspeed, (Matron,) . . . . .	300 00
H. A. Jenkins, (Assistant Matron,) . . . . .	260 00
Margaret Youdell, (Assistant Matron,) . . . . .	260 00
Ann Youdell, (Assistant Matron,) . . . . .	260 00
S. D. Bowles, (Assistant Matron,) . . . . .	208 00
C. E. Pike, (Assistant Matron,) . . . . .	208 00



## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

---

*To the Inspectors of the State Almshouse at Bridgewater.*

GENTLEMEN:—The Seventeenth Annual Report of the hospital department of this institution, is respectfully submitted.

### SUMMARY.

Number of patients admitted, . . . . .	331
of patients remaining, . . . . .	95
of deaths, . . . . .	46
discharged, . . . . .	271

The health of the institution has been fully up to the standard of former years.

An unusually large proportion of the deaths have occurred among the adults, and these from chronic and incurable diseases. Mortality among the infants and children has been much less than it has been our fortune to report in previous years. This fact is not due to any improvement in the physical condition of this class as they come to our care, but rather to the absence of all contagious diseases for the time, together with the unceasing watchfulness and care for the best good of these little ones, so constantly shown by the matron of this institution.

Twenty-four children have been born during the year, nineteen of whom were illegitimate.

For further particulars we refer you to the tables herewith annexed.

We are pleased, once again, to bear testimony to the order and cleanliness which have always been enforced, as well as the strict attention paid by the superintendent and matron to all those hygienic measures, which so far promote the health of

1870.]

PUBLIC DOCUMENT—No. 24.

17

the inmates. To them, and all other officers of the institution I return my sincere thanks for their ready coöperation and assistance in the discharge of the duties of my office.

I am, gentlemen,  
Yours, respectfully,

EDWARD SAWYER, M.D.  
*Physician.*

BRIDGEWATER, MASS., Sept. 30, 1870.



18

ALMSHOUSE AT BRIDGEWATER.

Loet

1870.]

PUBLIC DOCUMENT—No. 24.

19

<i>Of Respiratory Organs,—</i>														
Bronchitis, . . . . .	16	—	1	5	—	1	—	3	3	1	—	2	—	—
Consumption, . . . . .	17	1	1	2	2	1	—	—	2	1	4	3	—	—
Pneumonia, . . . . .	7	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	—
Other Diseases, . . . . .	19	1	1	—	6	3	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	3
<i>Of the Skin,—</i>														
Erysipelas, . . . . .	4	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Rupia, . . . . .	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases, . . . . .	5	1	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Surgical Diseases,—</i>														
Abscesses, . . . . .	4	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Fractures, . . . . .	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ulcers, . . . . .	5	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Venereal, . . . . .	26	—	1	2	—	—	7	2	1	—	4	3	6	—
Other Diseases, . . . . .	40	6	4	4	2	5	2	8	—	3	3	3	—	—
Totals, . . . . .	331	26	23	31	26	30	30	33	32	10	29	41	20	—
Average number on the sick list, . . . . .	93	90	91	94	87	99	95	100	86	82	93	103	96	—



TABLE No. 2.

*Showing the Causes of Death, the whole Number, the Sex, the Mental Condition, the Number in each Month, and the Ages of those who have Died in the State Almshouse at Bridgewater, from October 1, 1869, to September 30, 1870 ; also the whole Number since the opening of the Institution.*

DISEASES OR CAUSES OF DEATH.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	Insane Males.	Insane Females.	Total.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	Over 80.
Bronchitis, Chronic,	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer, .	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congestion of Brain,	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consumption, .	12	8	4	-	1	1	3	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	2	2	1	-	1	-	-	5	1	-	3	2	-	-	-
Convulsions, .	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dentition, .	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marasmus, .	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis, .	3	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Old Age, .	4	1	3	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralysis, .	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia, .	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scrofula, .	5	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Softening of Brain,	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilis, .	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilis, Congenital,	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, . . .	46	25	21	2	3	5	5	-	4	5	3	3	1	7	5	3	4	6	15	8	2	-	-	6	4	1	3	3	4	-

Whole number since the opening of the Institution, . . . . . 2,518

TABLE No. 3.

*Showing the Number of Births in the State Almshouse at Bridgewater during each Month, from October 1, 1869, to September 30, 1870, with a Statement of the Sex, and whether Illegitimate, Twins or Still-Born, and the Birthplace of the Mothers, and the whole Number since the opening of the Institution.*

MONTHS.	Total.	Males.	Females.	ILLEGITIMATE.			Twins.	Still-Born.	BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHERS.				
				Males.	Females.	Total.			U. States.	Ireland.	England.	British Provinces.	Other Countries.
October, .	2	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
November, .	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
December, .	3	2	1	1	1	2	-	1	1	1	1	-	-
January, .	4	4	-	3	-	3	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
February, .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
March, .	2	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
April, .	4	2	2	2	2	4	-	-	3	-	-	1	-
May, .	3	-	3	-	3	3	-	1	1	1	-	-	1
June, .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
July, .	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
August, .	2	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
September, .	2	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Total, .	24	14	10	12	7	19	-	2	10	8	1	2	3

Whole number since the opening of the Institution, . . . . 811



## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

*To the Inspectors of the State Almshouse and State Workhouse  
at Bridgewater.*

GENTLEMEN:—During the past year the usual religious instruction has been given, and the attendance of the inmates of this institution has been as in former years. Their orderly conduct and serious attention to the preaching of the gospel have been worthy of commendation and inspire the hope that some good has been effected.

The matter of prison discipline is exciting no small attention at the present day. When we look back a few centuries, it would seem that the great object was to execute revenge upon transgressors of the law. Criminals were looked upon as the outcasts of society, and treated in a cruel and inhuman manner. But as the spirit of Christianity is better understood, the poor, the fallen and the wretched are receiving due attention. Too much pity cannot be shown to this unfortunate class of humanity. But true pity is not shorn of justice. It is not an overweening sentimentalism. The justice of the Almighty is as glorious an attribute as his mercy. In His character justice and mercy meet together; righteousness and truth embrace each other.

The great, learned and distinguished French philosopher, (Lacordaire,) when studying the laws of jurisprudence, discovered that "society was a necessity for mankind, and that religion was a necessity for society." What this philosopher learned by study and experience, is a recognized principle through God's revelation to man. Every society, state or commonwealth must have laws founded upon strict justice; and every violation of law must be followed by a just penalty. Civil union is based on compulsion, on central authority, on mandatory law. So

manifold are the interests involved in society, that all disobedience and lawlessness must receive a just recompense of reward; and nothing will answer the continuance of a state short of power to which the refractory must yield.

No one ever repents and reforms his life until he feels that he has done wrong. "The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law;" "for by the law is the knowledge of sin." This is true with regard to human as well as the divine government. Hence the importance and benefit of maintaining religious instruction in connection with prison discipline, and in every effort to reform the vicious and unruly class of our fellow-beings. Whilst it is necessary to make them realize their transgressions and disobedience of wise and wholesome laws, we will treat them with Christian sincerity and love.

It is believed that the management and discipline of this institution by your worthy superintendent, have reached a degree of perfection seldom witnessed in any of our reformatory institutions. By his wise, judicious, untiring and faithful labors, he has secured for it the admiration of all who are seeking the true end of prison discipline; and the course here pursued, will no doubt result in the reformation of many of that unfortunate class, who have incurred the penalty of wise and benevolent laws.

Respectfully submitted,  
By your humble servant,

EBENEZER GAY.

BRIDGEWATER, September 30, 1870.